

Acknowledgements

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Some interesting moths recently confirmed for or new to the Devon fauna

Examples of Morris's Wainscot *Chortodes morrisii morrisii* were found by hand held light at Culverhole Point, near Seaton, on 26 June 2002 by Barry Henwood and Phil Sterling. This appears to constitute the first record for the species in Devon since that of Barrett (*Victoria County History of Devon*, 1906) who noted that it "occurs in the extreme south-eastern corner of the county towards Lyme Regis amongst the foodplant *Festuca arundinacea*". South (1907. *The Moths of the British Isles* repeated in the fourth edition in 1961) gives references to the species at Charmouth, Dorset (where positive records were made in 1995), Lyme Regis and Sidmouth.

On 12 April 2003, two examples of the Lead-coloured Drab *Orthosia populeti* were taken by Rob Wolton, at Hannaborough Moor, near Hatherleigh. This is, perhaps surprisingly, the first confirmed record of this species in Devon; the only other records available are not supported by voucher specimens. They were allegedly recorded by Parfitt (1878. *Transactions of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science Literature and the Arts*, 10), who details sightings by a Mr Reading who said.

“The only specimens known to have occurred within the area of the two counties were taken at gas-lamps at Woodside, Plymouth.” He continues. “In 1863 I could have taken the insect, in almost any number, flying around some poplars growing at the side of Trews Weir.” (Exeter). It was also noted by Elliston Wright (1932. *Braunton, a few Nature Notes*) where it was said to have been taken at Halsinger Down, near Ilfracombe, and in 1934, R. J. Burton took larvae at the same locality. There is one other record from Yarnier Wood on 2 June 1989. The wings of this specimen were retained in a collection at the Forest Office; I have examined these remains and am not convinced they are this species. The Trews Weir site has no aspen growing; the Woodside, Plymouth site may not be viable, but is being checked.

A return visit to Hannaborough Moor on 27 May 2003 led to the capture of a Poplar Lutestring *Tetliea* or D.& S. Interestingly, there appear to be no other recent records of this species in Devon. The *Victoria County History of Devon*, 1906, notes that it was “Recorded in Stephen’s *Illustrations*.” It is said also to have been seen at Milber Down, Newton Abbot, at sugar, by J. Walker in August 1905, a site now mostly built upon. It is strange that C. G. Barrett omitted this record from the *VCH*. A more recent record is that from Maiden Down, near Westleigh on 15 July 1984 by H. T. King accompanied by T. and A. White. I had considered this to be doubtfully correct because the foodplant is not common in Devon. Ivimey-Cook (1984. *Atlas of the Devon Flora*) gives 144 sites where *Populus tremula* has been found, with a lot of these being modern plantings, but in the light of the recent find at Hannaborough Moor, the Maiden Down sighting will need to be investigated further.

At Hannaborough Moor again, on 31 May 2003, Rob Wolton, Barry Henwood, Peter Franghiadi, George Williams and myself recorded four further examples, along with what we believe to be a larva of *O. populeti*. A list of 94 other species included five or six specimens of the tortricid *Ancylis laetana* Fabr., a species which feeds also on Aspen. It is referred to (as *Ancylis lactana*) in the *Ilfracombe Flora and Fauna* (Palmer, 1946) in a list of “Some Smaller Moths of the Ilfracombe District,” on page 105. It was apparently taken by “F.R.E.W.” but there is no date or locality. This presumably relates to F. R. Elliston Wright, who lived at Braunton; the food plant is shown at Braunton by Ivimey-Cook (*op. cit.*). Bob Heckford said that he could find no other record than the one shown. We can only assume that the Hannaborough Moor examples are the first confirmed for Devon.— ROY MCCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.

***Otiorhynchus porcatus* (Herbst) (Col.: Curculionidae) in Northamptonshire.**

On 19 March 2003 I recorded a single male *Otiorhynchus porcatus* in my rural garden, in the village of Hemington (O. S. grid reference TL 091852), on the eastern borders of Northamptonshire with Cambridgeshire. The insect was found in a wheelbarrow used to transfer freshly cut lawn turf edgings, together with a selection of weeds from an herbaceous border. This is the first known occurrence of this species in a garden in which I have assiduously recorded Coleoptera for the past